

CHARTER-TIED UP

No Action by the Committee on the New Road.

BUT IT WILL BE BUILT.

Company in Which Mr. E. L. Fogg is Interested Determined to Construct a Line From Newport News to Old Point.

Mr. W. J. Payne, of Richmond, president of the Newport News Gas Company, was in the city yesterday.

Mr. Payne is one of the principal promoters of the Newport News and Old Point Electric Company, and to a reporter for the Daily Press yesterday he stated that if the General Assembly granted the charter his company had applied for the work of building an electric line between this city and Old Point would be completed in a very short time.

The company was ready to begin work at any time. Mr. Payne estimates that about \$400,000 will be expended on the line, as the project is proposed to make it possible to connect with the best rolling stock on the market, so that the service will be first-class in every particular.

This company applied for a charter over six weeks ago, this having been introduced in both the Senate and the House, but it seems that the committee has made no report on the measure, though the promoters of the project have urged action.

This undertaking is regarded as an enterprise, and there can be but two solutions to it: the committee can either pass on the measure, or it can refuse to do so. In the latter case, the promoters of the project are not discouraged.

During the week four criminal cases were disposed of in the Corporation Court, and a conviction was secured in each.

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MR. H. E. PARKER FOR MAYOR.

It is Said that the Republicans Will Unite on Him.

Mr. H. E. Parker, superintendent of terminals and general agent of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, will probably be the candidate for the mayoralty this spring.

A representative of the Daily Press learned from an authoritative source yesterday that Mr. Parker had been approached by the managers of prominent Republican and asked if he would accept the nomination, and it is understood that an affirmative answer was given.

Efforts are being made to harmonize the two factions of the Republican party in this city. The leaders are in a mood to unite, and Mr. Parker, who has not allied himself with either wing of the party, but kept in the middle-of-the-road, is it is said, the man they have agreed on to head the ticket in the coming municipal fight.

Mr. Parker is a man of prominent position in the city, and it is believed by the Republicans that he would make a strong candidate and poll the full strength of the party.

ON THE YEAR FOR BOM BILLY.

Jury Finds Him Guilty of Stealing a Watch.

The case of the Commonwealth vs. Bom Billy, alias Oliver Thomas, the negro who was indicted for stealing a watch off the person of a white man named W. H. Pierce, in a bloodfield saloon, was tried in the Corporation Court yesterday.

The jury found Bom Billy guilty and fixed his punishment at one year in the penitentiary. His counsel moved the court set the verdict aside on the ground that it was tainted by the influence of the evidence.

This is the second time Bom Billy has been convicted of this offense. At a former trial the jury gave him two years in the penitentiary, but he was afterwards granted a new hearing on technical grounds. The alleged crime was committed on the night of August 21st, 1907. There were several negroes implicated in the robbery.

Bom Billy was represented by Attorneys E. S. Robinson and P. S. George. Commonwealth's Attorney J. K. M. Newton conducted the prosecution.

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BROKE HIS NECK

Sailor Falls Through a Hatch on the Barge Rondout.

DEATH INSTANTANEOUS.

Coroner H. R. Gary Will Hold an Inquest at 10 O'clock This Morning to Ascertain if There Was Any Fault Play.

Thomas Thomson, a seaman, was killed on the barge Rondout, Captain Ernest Bonheut, at 7:30 o'clock last evening.

The Rondout arrived in port Friday from Boston to load a cargo of steam coal, and she is anchored off pier 3.

As soon as he learned of the accident, Captain Bonheut came ashore and reported the death to Chief of Police S. J. Harwood, who in turn notified Coroner H. R. Gary.

Dr. Gary decided to hold an inquest this morning at 10 o'clock, and the body was not removed from the barge last night. While foot play is not supposed to be deemed admissible in the circumstances attending the accident.

Thomson was a Norwegian by birth, and a widower without children. He was 35 years old. It is said that Thomson was the uncle of one of the crew that went down on the barge Yonkers, which was sunk in a storm off the New England coast not long since while en route to Boston from this port with a cargo of coal.

Thomson was a Norwegian by birth, and a widower without children. He was 35 years old. It is said that Thomson was the uncle of one of the crew that went down on the barge Yonkers, which was sunk in a storm off the New England coast not long since while en route to Boston from this port with a cargo of coal.

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LETTER FROM O. K. LAPHAM.

H. Asks if Lateral in the Sugar Beet Industry is Warranted.

Mr. Thomas B. Henley yesterday received the following letter from Mr. O. K. Lapham, of New York, regarding the sugar beet industry:

"Dear Sir:—I don't know whether you have lost interest in the sugar beet industry or not. I have not heard from you for some time, and never learned what success you had in getting an arrangement necessary to warrant the erection of a factory.

"I am at a meeting at Fredericksburg since I last saw you. At this meeting a bill was offered for the approval of the farmers in convention, permitting the State to give a company of growers the right to erect a factory.

"Later I had Senator Ople, of Staunton, to introduce a bill to allow the Governor to give any company one contract for every ten acres of land they could get to allow them to erect a factory. In this way, the company, or others wanting to start the business, would be relieved of the expense of the new crop till they could get the results. At any time they wished to enter upon the business they could have the State to back them up.

"I am sure that Senator Ople to introduce a bill similar to that in New York State and many other States—one which sooner or later will be enforced by public opinion, as well as economic necessity. I am sure that the State especially needed in Virginia, if she expects outside capital to enter the State to develop the great natural advantages which she possesses. The bill was that the State of Virginia, also all goods made by convict labor in other States and offered for sale in Virginia, should be subject to a penalty of \$100,000 for each year's sale of such goods.

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A POLITE REFUSAL

Negative Answer to Spain's Absurd Request.

NO JOINT INVESTIGATION

Americans Will Find Out for Themselves What Caused the Maine Disaster.

Secretary Long yesterday refused to accede to the Spanish request for a joint investigation of the Maine disaster.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The international feature of the day's news at the War Department was the decision of the Secretary of War to refuse the Spanish request for a joint investigation of the Maine disaster.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Proceedings of the Senate and House.

MEASURES INTRODUCED

Legislature to Be in Session on Washington's Birthday.

By Mr. Fowle, of Baltimore, a bill to amend the act relating to the State of Maryland.

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